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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 3, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY BERKLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, source of eternal light, on this new day we offer not only our prayer but all the work of Congress as a living sacrifice of praise. Born of human effort, the fruit of experience and right judgment, pressed by negotiations and compromise, with the result of common concern for Your people, the decisions of this Congress are raised up before the people of this democracy to realize their best intuitions, inspire their hopes for the future, and foster their goodness.

At the same time, this work is raised up before You as the sovereign ruler of all times and nations and the compassionate defender of Your people, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTRODUCING THE ARMED FORCES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACT AND THE VETERANS AND SURVIVORS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACT

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, a couple weeks ago our Nation celebrated Memorial Day, a day to give tribute to the men and women who have given their lives for our country. But I think it's important for those of us who serve in the Congress to realize that we, on a regular basis, have to do everything we can to protect and defend those who protect and defend us.

Later today I will be introducing the Armed Forces Behavioral Health Awareness Act as well as the Veterans and Survivors Behavioral Health Awareness Act with Congressman AKIN. These bills represent a strong bipartisan commitment to expanding and protecting access to mental health treatment and services for our active duty and retired military. These bills will provide all servicemembers with

equal access to readjustment counseling and mental health services at Vet Centers. We will provide dedicated funding for nonprofits supporting military families and create a program for proactive mental health outreach to soldiers. We will also provide a program for Vet Centers aimed at growing the number of mental health trainers as well as providers.

These bills will dramatically expand our ability to provide mental health coverage to our warriors who are doing so much for all of us both here at home and abroad.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in moving these bills toward swift passage.

TIANANMEN ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago today the brutal massacre of peaceful student demonstrators occurred in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China, by the People's Liberation Army. Hundreds, perhaps thousands were shot, killed or wounded, including being run over by tanks. The extraordinary image of a man standing unarmed in front of a row of Chinese tanks has become one of the most famous photos of the 21st century and will forever be ingrained in our memories. That man represents thousands of others thirsting for freedom, thousands who were arrested and detained. Some of those are still in labor camps today.

This week we pause to remember the lives of those who were tragically lost in the massacre and imprisoned in the gulag. We honor their courage and their stand for freedom. China has made significant progress towards economic reform, but political reform is still needed to ensure the fundamental rights of the people, such as freedom of religion, expression and assembly.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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